

Name: Sarah-Lee Louison-Joseph

Town: East Hartford

School: Academy of Computer Science and Engineering

My son who is currently an 8th grader at the Academy of Computer Science and Engineering (formerly Two Rivers Magnet School) is on the Autism Spectrum. Being on the Spectrum, my son's learning ability is different from someone who is not on the Spectrum. He was fortunate to enter the CREC school system at the beginning of the 7th grade. The Public School's curriculum did not meet the needs of my son because in my opinion, it was generic with little or no adjustments to meet him at his level or style of learning. The curriculum at ASCE has provided the environment for my son's learning abilities to flourish. The school offers different classes such as Hydroponics, Creative Writing Journey, Choice in Design, Computer Science all of which my son is excited and interested in and doing very well. My son is a hard worker but couldn't SHINE like I know he could in the Public School system. CREC gave that to him, the opportunity to SHINE! For me and my family that is a big deal, being able to SHINE with a learning disability! I always hoped that my son will go to college despite his learning disability. This hope that I've had is looking more like a reality because of the progress my son has made in 1 ½ years. I am so grateful for CREC and their mission of "Equity, excellence, and success for all through high-quality educational services" for our kids, therefore I urge you to please continue funding our CREC schools because other kids like my son should have the opportunity to SHINE also.